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Marlborough Borough

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1946

Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 27th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 13/47 dated 13th March, 1947.

I have the honour to remain

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Census 1931 : 3,492

Population—Estimated Mid. 1946—4,656

Area : 1,496 Acres

Rateable Value : £38,301

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £153 12 1

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1946 : 1330

Births, 1946	Male	Female	Total
Live	32	43	75 (13 Illegitimate)
Still	1	0	1

Birth Rate, 1946 England and Wales

Live 13.3 Live 19.1

Still 0.2 Still 0.53

Birth Rate Average last 10 years 13.6

England and Wales , , 10 , , 15.3

Deaths : Males 25 Females 30 Total 55

Death Rate 11.8 Average last 10 years 11.1

England and Wales 11.5 , , 10 years 12.1

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 6

Females 3 Total 9 (2 illegitimate)

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 120

England and Wales 43

Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 54.6

England and Wales , , 10 years 50.5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	5	1	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	5	2 (Sav)	0
Erysipelas	10	4	0
Measles	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	29	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1 (Sav)	0

Scarlet Fever. Only five cases were notified and all of these were after 1st October and were isolated cases.

Diphtheria. No confirmed case occurred. Two doubtful cases were admitted to Hospital but both eventually proved not to be the disease.

Pneumonia. Five cases were notified, two of which were treated in Savernake Hospital, and all recovered.

Erysipelas. Ten cases arose, and of these, four were treated in Hospital. All recovered.

Measles. The Town was practically free from this disease during 1946, only one case being notified.

Whooping Cough. Twenty-nine cases were notified, mainly during the first half of the year, only six being in the last half.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. One case in an adult was notified and treated in Savernake Hospital. The Patient recovered.

Tuberculosis. Six new cases were notified, the details being as follows :—

- One Male, Pulmonary, age 48
- One Male, Pulmonary, age 34
- One Female, Pulmonary, age 2
- One Male, Non-Pulmonary, age 65
- One Male, Non-Pulmonary, age 34
- One Female, Non-Pulmonary, age 43.

The one *death* given by the Registrar-General was in a child six months old who died of meningitis, "Probably Tubercular".

Immunisation against Diphtheria. During the year I held six clinics in the Borough when 42 children were immunised; some of these came from outside the Borough. Altogether 62 children under five, 10 between five and fifteen and 9 re-inforcement doses were done during the year. This makes a total to the end of 1946 of 369 under five, 560 between five and fifteen and 9 re-inforcement doses. Grand total of 938.

Housing.

Like most other places, the Housing situation in the Borough has been causing the Council considerable trouble owing to over-crowding and lack of facilities for getting repairs done and so only urgent matters have been dealt with.

During the year 34 housing inspections were made. In 33 cases defects were found; 8 being remedied after verbal notice and 29 after informal notice.

Temporary Houses. Twenty temporary pre-fabricated houses of the Uni-Seco type were completed during the year, 14 at Manton and 6 at Cherry Orchard. They appear to be greatly appreciated by the tenants.

Permanent Houses. After various delays and difficulties in getting away from the starting post, a contract for 10 three-bedroom houses of the traditional type was commenced in July, 1946 on the London Road Estate, following the laying down of the necessary roads, sewers, water-mains and other services. The contract was later extended to cover 24 houses and is now well under way (1947).

Owing to the various shortages of materials and the abnormally bad weather, progress has been slow, but the finishing post for the first six houses is now in sight, and it is hoped that the others will follow with greater rapidity.

The Common Huttet Camp. Squatters were first sighted in the disused Military Hospital Camp on The Common in August, 1946. Your Council immediately took the matter up with the Ministry of Health who regularised the position by appointing the Council as their Agents for the control of this Camp. The Council then appointed the Additional Sanitary Inspector as

Camp Commandant to deal with the day to day problems of administration. The tenants are now approved by the Buildings and Lands Committee before being accepted. Up to date (31st March, 1947) 38 families have been housed in this manner.

Some of the occupied huts leave much to be desired from the point of view of amenity and the Ministry of Health is being approached with a view to the sanction of the necessary funds to enable a water supply, sink, drain and W.C. to be provided to each hut instead of the common use of the old military ablution and sanitary blocks.

Much of the Sanitary Inspector's time has been taken up in supervising work on the Common Camp.

Water Supply.

There has been no alteration in the supply to the Town.

All houses in the Borough are now connected to the mains, apart from 8 houses at Manton supplied from 3 stand pipes.

A supply is provided to a Military Camp at Salisbury Hill. This supply is taken from the reservoir through a meter and pumped by the Military to serve several units encamped in the neighbourhood.

A metered supply is provided also to the Military Hospital Camp on The Common now occupied by Squatters.

This water is efficiently chlorinated and samples taken during the year all proved to be of good quality and free from any evidence whatever of harmful pollution. No coli aerogenes of any sort being present, including the sample taken in November which was unchlorinated.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewerage Works continue to function satisfactorily since reconstruction and consistently produce a good effluent.

The manufacture of Straw Sludge Compost has been continued during the year and is becoming increasingly popular amongst Allotment Holders and others.

Rivers and Streams.

The section of the River Kennet for which the Council is responsible was thoroughly cleaned out and weeded during the year, and no nuisance was caused.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse was collected once weekly by motor vehicle and disposed of by controlled tipping.

Paper, rags, metal, bones and other salvageable materials were collected and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Government Scheme.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

The destruction of rats and mice within the Borough has been carried out by the Operator appointed in conjunction with the Rural District Councils' of Pewsey and Marlborough and Ramsbury.

48 premises were disinfested and good results obtained.

Swimming Bath.

Water is pumped from the river into the bath and is frequently changed; in addition, the water is chlorinated by means of the addition of "Chloros" and the amount of free chlorine tested daily by means of the Orthotolodine Test.

Milk Supply.

Four of the five producers had Special Designation licenses until December, 1946, and samples were taken regularly by the County Council Inspectors to see that a required standard was maintained.

One producer, however, was refused renewal of his Special Designation licence for 1947.

Meat and Other Foods.

The total meat condemned during the year was 15 tons, 1 cwt., 1 qr., 16 lbs. The total number of condemnations was 314, 52 of which were in respect of entire carcases.

There was also a total of 11 cwts., 3 qrs., 18 lbs. of other foodstuffs, mainly tinned foods, which was condemned during the year.

Factory Act, 1937.

There are 16 factories to which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 apply and 31 not included in the above to which Section 7 applies.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after Verbal instructions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	7	7	5	—	5	—	2
Slaughter-houses ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	6	2	—	—	—	—	2
Cowsheds,	Dairies and Milkshops	15	6	3	—	3	3
Tents, Vans, and Sheds							
Bakehouses	3	1	—	—	—	—	1
Butchers' Shops	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factory Inspections	4	2	1	—	1	—	1
Totals	48	18	9	—	9	—	9

It will be noted from the above table of Inspections that the Sanitary Inspection of the district is even less than last year and falls very short of the early years of the War and previous to the War. This is in some measure due to the fact that the Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector was without any assistance for four months but since the appointment of the present Additional Sanitary Inspector much of his time has been taken up by office routine in connection with building licences, supervising the Squatters on The Common and doing clerical work which could just as well have been done by a clerk. I have on more than one occasion pointed this out to the appropriate Committee and as a result, in June, 1947, the Council decided to appoint a Junior Clerk. This is better than nothing, but in my opinion an efficient shorthand typist is required for this office so that the technically qualified officers should not have to pass their time doing ordinary clerical work to the detriment of the outside technical examinations required of the Sanitary Inspectors.

During the period there was no additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hudson, of the Rural District did the meat inspection.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Causes of Death	M.	F.
All Causes	25	30	Appendicitis		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Other digest. diseases	2	
Cerebro-spinal Fever			Nephritis	3	2
Scarlet Fever			Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Whooping Cough			Other maternal causes		1
Diphtheria			Premature birth	1	2
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.			Cong. malf. birth. inj. Inf. dis.	1	1
Other form of Tuberc.	1		Suicide		
Syphilitic Diseases	1		Road Traffic Act		1
Influenza			Other violent causes		1
Measles			All other causes	1	2
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.			Total	6	3
Cancer of b. cav; and			Legitimate	5	2
oesoph (M.)	1		Illegitimate	1	1
uterus (F.)			Live Births		
Cancer of stomach and			Total	32	43
duodenum	2		Legitimate	28	34
Cancer of breast			Illegitimate	4	9
Cancer of all other sites	3	1	Stillbirths		
Diabetes	1		Total		1
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	1	5	Legitimate		1
Heart disease	4	10	Illegitimate		
Other dis. of circ. syst.	3	2	Population		4,656
Bronchitis					
Pneumonia		2			
Other Resp. diseases					
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum					
Diarrhoea under two years					

